

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 DEAE-00 AID-05 /021 W
-----043568 150005Z /66

R 142020Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY QUITO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6629
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 4 QUITO 8351

FOR S/NM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, EC
SUBJECT: FY 1979 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL
CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION

REFS: (A) STATE 270847, (B) QUITO 8352

FOLLOWING IS PART I, OVERVIEW OF ECUADOR'S NARCOTICS SITUATION, AS REQUESTED IN REFTEL (A).

A. THE PROBLEM.

1. FROM THE ECUADOREAN POINT OF VIEW AND IN TERMS OF THE HEALTH OF THE COUNTRY'S CITIZENRY, MARIHUANA IS THE MAJOR NARCOTICS PROBLEM. MOREOVER, MOST KEY OFFICIALS WITHIN THE GOE WOULD GIVE THIS PROBLEM A RATHER LOW PRIORITY IN COMPARISON TO MANY OTHER PRESSING PROBLEMS OF ECUADOR, SUCH AS MALNUTRITION, EDUCATION, DYSENTARY, DISEASE, INCOME DISTRIBUTION, NATIONAL DEFENSE AND AGRICULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN GENERAL. MARIHUANA IS CONSUMED ON A 10 TO 1 BASIS OVER THE NEXT MOST COMMONLY USED DRUG. MOST OF THE MARIHUANA CONSUMED IN ECUADOR IS SMUGGLED INTO THE COUNTRY FROM COLOMBIA, ALTHOUGH SOME IS PRODUCED IN-COUNTRY. USE IS RELATIVELY WIDE-
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SPREAD AND REACHES INTO EVERY LEVEL OF SOCIETY BUT IS MORE OFTEN USED BY LOW INCOME RESIDENTS OF LARGE COASTAL COMMUNITIES. COCA BASE, AN INTERMEDIATE PRODUCT RESULTING FROM THE CONVERSION COCAINE SULPHATE TO COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE, IS THE SECOND MOST ABUSED DRUG. A FEW INSTANCES OF AMPHETAMINE AND BARBITUATE ABUSE HAVE BEEN RECORDED AND USE OF INHALANTS AMONG PRE-TEENAGERS IS RELATIVELY HIGH AND SPREADING.

2. THE PROBLEM IN TERMS OF US INTERESTS IS THAT

ECUADOR IS PREDOMINATELY A TRANSIT ZONE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN COCAINE. THE TRAFFIC IN MARIHUANA DOES NOT REALLY CONCERN THE USG. IT IS ESTIMATED BY THE MISSION THAT SOME 50 TONS OF COCA PASTE ENTER ECUADOR YEARLY FROM PERU. BEST ESTIMATES ARE THAT ABOUT 25 PERCENT OF ALL COCAINE SULPHATE (COCA PASTE) ENTERING ECUADOR FROM PERU IS CONVERTED TO COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE IN ECUADOR AND MOST OF IT THEN SMUGGLED INTO THE UNITED STATES, USUALLY THROUGH CENTRAL AMERICA AND MEXICO, BEING CARRIED BY HIRED COURIERS ("MULES"). UP TO NOW THE ONLY REAL TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATIONS FOUND WITHIN ECUADOR ARE IN THE TRAFFIC OF HYDROCHLORIDE AND HAVE BEEN LOCATED ON THE COAST.

3. THE REMAINING 75 PERCENT OF THE COCAINE SULFATE ENTERING ECUADOR FROM PERU TRANSITS ECUADOR AND IS CONVERTED IN COLOMBIA TO COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE, THE BULK OF WHICH IS SMUGGLED INTO THE UNITED STATES. ECUADOREAN TRAFFICKERS IN COCAINE SULPHATE ARE USUALLY RESIDENTS OF SMALL, PRIMITIVE TOWNS NEAR THE PERUVIAN BORDER. THEY MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH PERUVIAN SUPPLIERS AND WAIT FOR BUYERS TO APPROACH THEM, MOSTLY COLOMBIANS OR ECUADOREANS FROM THE POPULATION CENTERS

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FARTHER TO THE NORTH. THE TRAFFIC IN COCAINE SULPHATE IS LOOSELY ORGANIZED AND MOST BANDS ARE COMPOSED OF FAMILY MEMBERS, BUT RECENTLY THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME VISIBLE ORGANIZATION IN THE INTERNATIONAL MOVEMENT OF COCA PASTE AND BASE.

4. THERE IS ONE OTHER POTENTIAL NARCOTICS PROBLEM AREA IN ECUADOR FOR THE US, AND THAT IS ECUADOR'S PROVEN ABILITY TO GROW OPIUM AS IT DID FOR THE US DURING WORLD WAR II. WITH THE SUCCESSES ACHIEVED IN MEXICO, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY THAT TRAFFICKERS WOULD SEEK TO BEGIN PRODUCTION IN ECUADOR.

5. THERE IS NOT A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF TRADITIONAL COCA-CHEWING POPULATION IN ECUADOR, AND THE CULTIVATION, PROCESSING OR ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF COCA AND ITS DERIVATIVES IS AGAINST THE LAW. THE KEY TO IMPEDING THE FLOW OF NARCOTICS TO THE UNITED STATES IS THEREFORE EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT, BUT THE CORRUPTION AND INERTIA OF LAW-ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THE JUDICIARY HAVE PRECLUDED A VIGOROUS ENFORCEMENT EFFORT. THIS WILL BE DISCUSSED FURTHER UNDER "CONSTRAINTS."

B. US INTEREST.

TO GET THE GOE TO STEM AND EVENTUALLY STOP THE FLOW

OF COCAINE TO THE UNITED STATES THAT PASSES THROUGH OR
ORIGINATES IN ECUADOR.

C. STRATEGY

1. THE ANSWER TO COCAINE TRAFFICKING IN ECUADOR IS
STRONG, WELL-DIRECTED, HONEST AND EFFECTIVE LAW ENFORCE-
MENT COUPLED WITH HONEST AND PROMPT JUDICIAL ACTION
AGAINST MAJOR TRAFFICKERS. THE MISSION'S NARCOTICS
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CONTROL ACTION COMMITTEE, UNDER THE OVERALL DIRECTION
OF THE AMBASSADOR, HAS DETERMINED THREE MAJOR COURSES OF
ACTION FOR ELEMENTS OF THE MISSION:

A. BY THE USE OF DIPLOMACY, TO PERSUADE THE
GOE TO GIVE HIGH PRIORITY AND ATTENTION TO NARCOTICS
LAW ENFORCEMENT, LINKING OUR DESIRE FOR EFFECTIVE
ACTION ON THE PART OF THE GOE IN THIS AREA TO HIGH
PRIORITY FOREIGN POLICY INTERESTS OF THE GOE IN AREAS
WHERE ECUADOR LOOKS TO THE USG FOR ASSISTANCE.

B. TO ASSIST THE GOE TO INCREASE THE ENFORCE-
MENT CAPACITY OF ECUADOREAN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES
INVOLVED IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD; AND TO WORK COLSELY

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WITH THOSE AGENCIES TO HELP THEM DEVELOP CASES AGAINST
MAJOR TRAFFICKERS AND TO UTILIZE THEIR CAPACITY IN THE
MOST EFFECTIVE MANNER.

C. TO CREATE GREATER GOE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF
ECUADOR'S OWN GROWING NARCOTICS PROBLEM, WITH THE HOPE
THAT OVER TIME THE AWARENESS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO
CONCERN AND PRESSURES FOR EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL
ACTION IN THE SUPPRESSION OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING.

2. THE FIRST COURSE OF ACTION IS CARRIED OUT BY THE AMBASSADOR AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE GOE AND BY SENIOR OFFICERS OF THE EMBASSY. TOP GOE OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE PRESIDENCY, ARE BEING TOLD THAT NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IS OF TOP PRIORITY IN THE USG AND THAT THE GOE'S ACTIONS IN THIS AREA AFFECT OUR OVERALL BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. THE EFFORT TO HELP THE GOE DEVELOP ITS ENFORCEMENT CAPABILITY AND TO USE IT EFFECTIVELY IS PERFORMED PRIMARILY BY DEA, THE AID NARCOTICS CONTROL DIVISION AND THE POLITICAL SECTION THROUGH THE PROVISION OF TRAINING, COMMODITIES, INTELLIGENCE AND DAY-TO-DAY COOPERATION. THE FINAL COURSE OF ACTION, IN CONTRAST TO THE FIRST TWO WHICH SEEK BOTH SHORT AND LONG TERM RESULTS, IS LONG TERM BY CONFIDENTIAL

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NATURE, DIFFICULT TO MEASURE, AND IS NOT EXPECTED TO BEAR FRUIT FOR SOME TIME. USIS HAS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THIS, AS DO OUR "AWARENESS" PROJECTS WITH THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION.

3. SINCE FEBRUARY 26, 1977 WHEN THE AMBASSADOR MADE REPRESENTATION TO THE MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT ON CORRUPTION WITHIN AND POOR ENFORCEMENT BY THE NATIONAL POLICE AND JUDICIARY IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD, THE MISSION HAS TRIED TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON THE GOE FOR BETTER PERFORMANCE. SESSIONS HAVE BEEN HELD BETWEEN SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE MISSION AND HIGH LEVEL GOE OFFICIALS. THE DEPARTMENT RAISED THE PROBLEM WITH THE ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON. THE PRESIDENT INCLUDED MENTION OF THE NEED FOR BETTER ENFORCEMENT BY ECUADOR IN A LETTER TO PRESIDENT POVEDA IN NOVEMBER, AND THE AMBASSADOR TOOK THE QUESTION UP WITH THE SUPREME COUNCIL ON DECEMBER 15. THE GOE PROBABLY WAS NOT CONVINCED THAT THE USG WAS TRULY SERIOUS ABOUT THIS PROBLEM UNTIL THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER AND THE AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE ON GENERAL DURAN OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL. AND, IT IS NOT CERTAIN THAT THE SUPREME COUNCIL WILL BE ABLE TO BE EFFECTIVE AGAINST CORRUPTION IN A COUNTRY WHERE LACK OF DISCIPLINE IN ALL INSTITUTIONS IS NOTORIOUS. THE MISSION PLANS TO MAINTAIN OUR HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL PRESSURE. THE TEST OF OUR EFFORTS WILL BE WHETHER OR NOT THERE IS IMPROVED POLICE PERFORMANCE.

4. USG ASSISTANCE IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD IS NOT SUFFICIENT TO PROVIDE LEVERAGE WITH THE GOE, NOR EVEN WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE. THE PROJECTS SERVE IN LARGE PART TO ATTAIN ACCESS AND COOPERATION. WE NEVERTHELESS PLAN TO REVIEW CAREFULLY GOE PERFORMANCE DURING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE NEXT SIX MONTHS WHILE FY 78 NARCOTICS PROJECTS ARE BEING IMPLEMENTED AND PRIOR TO THE SIGNING OF THE FY 79 PROJECT AGREEMENTS RECOMMENDED IN PART II OF THIS PAPER (REFTEL (B)). IF NATIONAL POLICE AND JUDICIAL ACTION CONTINUES TO BE RELATIVELY INEFFECTIVE, THE MISSION WILL RECOMMEND DRASTICALLY CUTTING OR AGAINST SIGNING THE PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL POLICE. THE MISSION WILL ALSO REVIEW AGAIN THE PROJECT AGREEMENTS PROPOSED WITH THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION AND WITH THE CUSTOMS POLICE IN LIGHT OF EACH OF THESE ENTITIES' PERFORMANCE, OVER-ALL GOE EFFECTIVENESS, AND WHATIMPACT REDUCTIONS IN THESE PROGRAMS WOULD HAVE ON OUR SHORT AND LONG TERM EFFORTS TO STEM THE FLOW OF COCAINE THROUGH ECUADOR TO THE UNITED STATES.

D. PROGRESS TO DATE.

1. THE USG HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING THE GOE TO INCREASE THE CAPABILITY OF ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. SINCE 1973 THE NATIONAL POLICE HAS INCREASED THE NUMBER OF POLICE DESIGNATED FOR NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT BY MORE THAN SIX TIMES, AND HAS QUINTUPLED THE SIZE OF ITS BUDGET DEDICATED TO THIS AREA. USG REPRESENTATIONS AND THE USE OF MODEST AMOUNTS OF TRAINING AND COMMODITIES HAVE HELPED BRING THIS ABOUT. DURING THE PAST YEAR, WITH CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP, A VIGOROUS TWO-MAN US CUSTOMS ADVISORY TEAM AND MODEST AID, WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ABLE TO GET THE CUSTOMS POLICE TO FOCUS ON THE NARCOTICS PROBLEM WITH MODERATE SUCCESS. WITH OUR HELP AND PRESURE, THE GOE HAS CREATED A CAPABILITY SUFFICIENT FOR A RELATIVELY GOOD JOB OF NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT IN ECUADOR.

2. PROGRESS HAS ALSO BEEN MADE IN THE COOPERATION OF ECUADOR ON NARCOTICS IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD. ECUADOR COOPERATED IN A DEA ENGENDERED TRI-COUNTRY EN-
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FORCEMENT OPERATION, AND, ON ITS OWN, COOPERATION BETWEEN THE ECUADOREAN CUSTOMS POLICE AND THE PERUVIAN POLICE HAS IMPROVED SIGNIFICANTLY. ECUADOR HAS ALSO SUBSCRIBED TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AGREEMENTS.

3. WITH RESPECT TO OUR "AWARENESS" PROJECTS, THE MINISTRIES OF HEALTH AND EDUCATION HAVE CARRIED OUT SEMINARS AND TRAINING FOR ABOUT 800 COMMUNITY LEADERS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND GUIDANCE COUNSELORS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN AS TO WHETHER THE INCREASED "AWARENESS" OF SUCH OPINION FORMERS WILL BE TRANSLATED INTO PRESSURES FOR BETTER ENFORCEMENT.

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4. OVER-ALL AND IN TERMS OF OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE OF IMPENDING THE FLOW OF COCAINE TO THE US, HOWEVER, THE RESULTS OF OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTING. NARCOTICS ARRESTS FOR THIS PERIOD BY THE NATIONAL POLICE ARE DOWN FROM LAST YEAR 25 PERCENT, BUT THE AMOUNT OF COCAINE SULPHATE SEIZED IS UP 3 PERCENT AND THE AMOUNT OF PROCESSED MARIHUANA BY 208 PERCENT. CONVICTIONS REMAINED AT ABOUT THE SAME LEVEL AND NO MAJOR TRAFFICKERS OR INFLUENTIAL CITIZENS WERE ARRESTED OR IMPRISONED. POLICE AND JUDICIAL CORRUPTION AND INERTIA HAVE PREVENTED SATISFACTORY PERFORMANCE. IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO JUDGE WHETHER THE EMBASSY'S CONCERTED EFFORT DURING THE PAST YEAR TO BRING POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THE GOE AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS TO ATTAIN BETTER NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT WILL PRODUCE RESULTS. NOTWITHSTANDING A MUCH LOWER LEVEL OF RESULTS THAN WE WOULD HAVE LIKED, THE MINIMAL SUCCESS ATTAINED HERE HAS HAD SOME EFFECT. FOR INSTANCE, A RECENT CUSTOMS POLICE SEIZURE OF 68 POUNDS OF COCA BASE WOULD HAVE HAD AN ESTIMATED STREET VALUE IN THE UNITED STATES OF \$15 MILLION.

E. CONSTRAINTS.

1. THE FAILURE OF THE GOE TO PRESS STRONGLY
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AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUG TRAFFICKING DERIVES FROM THE LOW PRIORITY IT ASSIGNS TO THE DRUG PROBLEM AND TO INERTIAL APATHY AND CORRUPTION WITHIN THE NATIONAL POLICE. IT ALSO DERIVES FROM THE WEAKNESS OF THE TRANSITIONAL RULING MILITARY TRIUMVERATE (SUPREME COUNCIL) WHICH IS CONFRONTED WITH INTERNAL POLITICAL PROBLEMS, BUREAUCRATIC INCAPACITY, TREMENDOUS DEVELOPMENTS, TASKS, AND WHAT ECUADOREANS REGARD AS A THREAT TO THEIR TERRITORIAL

SOVEREIGNTY. SUFFICIENT PUBLIC CONCERN TO FOCUS GOE ATTENTION ON THE PROBLEM IS SOME DISTANCE IN THE FUTURE.

2. AT A LESSER LEVEL THAN THAT MENTIONED ABOVE, THERE ARE OTHER IMPORTANT INSTITUTIONAL CONSTRAINTS. THE ECUADOREAN POLICE LOOK GOOD BUT THEY HAVE MORE FORM THAN CONTENT. THE ABSENCE OF SPECIALIZATION OF POLICEMEN AND THE ESTABLISHED CAREER PATTERNS WITHIN THE NATIONAL POLICE KEEP TRAINED NARCOTICS POLICEMEN FROM BEING USED IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. POLICEMEN ARE POORLY PAID AND RECEIVE INADEQUATE SUPERVISION. A NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE UNIT HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED BUT DOESN'T FUNCTION WELL. EQUIPMENT IS ASSIGNED FOR NARCOTICS UNITS IN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THE PROBLEM IS SMALL AND NOT ENOUGH EQUIPMENT TO UNITS WHERE NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IS RIFE. FINALLY, POLICE AND JUDICIAL CORRUPTION AND POLICE INERTIA HAVE BEEN THE SINGLE GREATEST CONSTRAINTS ON A MORE EFFECTIVE NARCOTICS PROGRAM.

F. COMMITMENT.

1. THE GOE HAS STEADILY INCREASED ITS RESOURCES INPUT TO COMBAT THE DRUG PROBLEM OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS. THE GOE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL POLICE ROSE FROM \$97.9 THOUSAND IN 1973 TO \$542.5 THOUSAND IN 1977, AN INCREASE OF 453 PERCENT. IT HAS GRADUALLY INCREASED THE NUMBER OF POLICE ASSIGNED SPECIFICALLY TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT FROM ONLY 35 IN 1973 TO A PRESENT FORCE STRENGTH OF 251, AN INCREASE OF OVER 514 PERCENT. ANTI-NARCOTICS LEGISLATION HAS BEEN IMPROVED, INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS TREATIES HAVE BEEN SIGNED, AND CO-OPERATION HAS INCREASED WITH ITS NEIGHBORS.

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2. THE COMMITMENT CANNOT YET BE CONSIDERED GREAT, HOWEVER, AND IT IS THIS LACK OF WILL AND COMMITMENT AT THE TOP LEVELS OF THE GOE, THE TOP LEVELS OF THE NATIONAL POLICE AND WITHIN THE JUDICIARY THAT MAKES THE GOE'S PERFORMANCE SO POOR IN LIGHT OF ITS INCREASED ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY.

G. ATTITUDES.

1. CERTAIN SEGMENTS OF ECUADOREAN OFFICIALDOM, ESPECIALLY IN THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION FIELD, HAVE A GROWING AWARENESS OF ECUADOR'S DRUG PROBLEM AND THAT IT IS RELATED TO AN INTERNATIONAL DRUG PROBLEM AS WELL. BUT AT THE GOVERNMENTAL LEVELS THAT COULD AFFECT ENFORCEMENT THERE SEEMS TO BE LITTLE CONCERN AND THE PROBLEM IS GIVEN A SECONDARY PRIORITY. IT IS STILL, THOUGH LESS SO, CONSIDERED BY MOST ECUADOREANS

INVOLVED IN ENFORCEMENT TO BE PRIMARILY A US PROBLEM.

2. PRESS COVERAGE PARTICULARLY RELATED TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT HAS REMAINED AT APPROXIMATELY THE SAME HIGH LEVEL AS LAST PERIOD. MOST ECUADOREAN NEWSPAPERS ARE HAPPY TO PRINT USIS OR OTHER ARTICLES ON NARCOTICS RELATED ACTIVITIES AND LOCAL PAPERS CONTINUE TO PUBLISH MANY DRUG RELATED EDITORIALS. MOST IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, IS THE AREA OF PUBLIC PARTICIPATION. WHILE UNIVERSITIES, PARTICULARLY MEDICAL SCHOOLS, HAVE HELD NARCOTICS SEMINARS FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE PAST, CONFIDENTIAL

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THE MISSION AND GOE OFFICIALS HAVE STIMULATES SEMINARS AND DISCUSSION GROUPS. THERE HAS BEEN A GROWING NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN ECUADOR'S PRIVATE SECTOR (I.E. DOCTORS, TEACHERS, CLERGY, PARENTS AND CIVIC CLUBS) WHO HAVE BECOME HIGHLY INTERESTED IN DRUG ABUSE AND TRAFFICKING. LITTLE BY LITTLE THE DRUG PROBLEM MAY BECOME LESS AND LESS AN EXCLUSIVE "US PROBLEM."

H. PARTICIPATING US AGENCIES.

1. THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION (DEA) CONTINGENT IN ECAUDOR IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN CAUSING AN IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON THE COCAINE TRAFFIC FROM AND THROUGH ECUADOR. IN EFFECTING THIS IMPACT, DEA: A) ACTIVELY ENGAGES IN INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND LIAISON WITH THE ECUADOREAN NATIONAL POLICE; B) IS INVOLVED IN INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING OF THE NPNIS THROUGH TRAINING AND

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ADVICE; AND C) SUPPORTS AND PROMOTES REGIONAL COOPERATION BETWEEN ECUADOR'S NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND THOSE OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. FUTURE ACTIONS OF DEA SHOULD CONTINUE ALONG THESE LINES AND SHOULD ALSO

INVOLVE GREATER PARTICIPATION IN THE PLANNING OF AND IDENTIFICATION WITH COMMODITY AND TRAINING SUPPORT PROVIDED BY S/NM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

2. THE USAID, THROUGH ITS NARCOTICS CONTROL DIVISION, HAS THE FOLLOWING ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE OVER-ALL NARCOTICS EFFORT: A) PLANNING, NEGOTIATING, PREPARING AND EVENTUALLY SIGNING AND IMPLEMENTING ALL BILATERAL NARCOTICS CONTROL, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROJECT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE USG AND THE CONCERNED MINISTRIES WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT OF ECUADOR; B) PROVIDING ALL MUTUALLY AGREED UPON COMMODITIES IN SUPPORT OF THE NARCOTICS CONTROL, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM, FURNISHING TECHNICAL ADVICE AND ENSURING THE PROPER END USE OF SUCH COMMODITIES; AND C) SUBMITTING ALL REQUIRED REPORTS ON THE NARCOTICS CONTROL, PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS, SUCH AS PROGRESS REPORTS, SEMI-ANNUAL REPORTS, AD HOC REPORTS AND THE NCAP. THE AID NARCOTICS CONTROL DIVISION IS TO BE CO-LOCATED WITH DEA IN THE NEAR FUTURE, AND BETWEEN NOW AND OCTOBER 1978 BE CONFIDENTIAL

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TRANSFERRED FROM AID AND INTEGRATED INTO THE EMBASSY. CONCOMMITANT WITH THIS MOVE, WE WOULD LIKE TO MERGE DEA AND THE OLD AID/NCD INTO A SINGLE UNIT WITH A SINGLE DIRECTOR OVER BOTH ENTITIES AS DIVISIONS OF THAT UNIT.

3. THE UNITED STATES INFORMATION SERVICE (USIS) IN ECUADOR HAS SUPPORTED USG NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORTS BY : A) PRINTING PUBLICATIONS DEALING WITH NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AND DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION AND EDUCATION; B) PROVIDING PRESS COVERAGE ON ALL PROGRAM ACTIVITIES; C) DEVELOPING TRAINING AIDS, SLIDES, ETC.; AND D) PRODUCING VIDEOTAPES LOCALLY TO BE USED FOR SPECIAL PROGRAMS, PARTICULARLY GOE-SPONSORED SEMINARS. USIS FUTURE ROLE WILL REMAIN THE SAME.

4. OTHER MISSION ELEMENTS ARE ALSO INVOLVED IN THE NARCOTICS CONTROL EFFORT. THE AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE PASSES ON INTELLIGENCE LEARNED DURING FIELD TRIPS TO OTHER MEMBERS OF THE NARCOTICS ACTION COMMITTEE. THE DEFENSE ATTACHE'S OFFICE MAINTAINS OPEN LINES OF COMMUNICATION WITH MILITARY OFFICIALS AT ALL LEVELS AND ALSO SHARES INFORMATION LEARNED FROM MILITARY SOURCES. IT HAS ALSO HELPED TO HAVE SPECIAL NARCOTICS PROGRAMS CREATED WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES. THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE EMBASSY PASSES ON INFORMATION LEARNED IN THE VISA PROCESS AND ALSO HAS MAINTAINED A VISA LOOKOUT SYSTEM ON THOSE PERSONS IN WHOM THE DEA HAS AN INTEREST. THE POLITICAL SECTION MONITORS THE PROGRAM FROM A POLITICAL POINT OF VIEW AND ADVISES ON WAYS TO INFLUENCE THE GOE.

THE DCM SERVES AS THE MISSION NARCOTICS CONTROL COORDINATOR AND DIRECTS THE PROGRAM THROUGH THE NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION COMMITTEE. THE AMBASSADOR PROVIDES
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OVER-ALL GUIDANCE AND DIRECTION AND MAKES REPRESENTATION AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT. WE ENVISION NO CHANGE IN THESE ROLES.

I. OTHER DONORS.

AT THE PRESENT TIME, THERE ARE NO OTHER DONORS OR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN ECUADOREAN NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS.

J. FUTURE OUTLOOK.

1. THE OUTLOOK APPEARS UNFAVORABLE FOR A DRAMATIC INCREASE IN THE GOE'S EFFORT IN THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT AREA, EVEN THOUGH THE MISSION PLANS TO MAINTAIN POLITICAL PRESSURE ON THE GOE TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE. WE HAVE FEW, IF ANY, SIGNIFICANT POINTS OF LEVERAGE THAT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE THAT THE USG COULD USE. MOST NEGATIVE LEVERAGE HAS ALREADY BEEN EXPENDED ON OTHER ISSUES, AND THE POSSIBLE POINTS OF POSITIVE LEVERAGE THAT COULD PRODUCE RAPID AND EFFECTIVE RESULTS WOULD REQUIRE REVERSALS OF HIGH LEVEL USG DECISIONS ON OTHER MAJOR POLICY ISSUES.

2. THE EMBASSY NEVERTHELESS WILL KEEP STEADY PRESSURE ON GOE OFFICIAL AT HIGH AND MEDIUM LEVELS, TRYING TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NARCOTICS CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND THAT GOE COOPERATION IN THIS AREA WILL BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN TERMS OF USG RESPONSIVENESS TO THINGS THE GOE WANTS FROM THE US. WE HOPE THAT THIS WILL BEING THE DESIRED RESULTS.

3. SHOULD WE NOT BEGIN TO SEE IMPROVEMENT IN THE GOE'S PERFORMANCE DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, WE WILL RECOMMEND AGAINST SIGNING THE PROPOSED PROJECT WITH THE
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NATIONAL POLICE, OR AT LEAST A DRASTIC REDUCTION IN ITS AMOUNT. WE WILL ALSO REVIEW OTHER RECOMMENDED PROJECTS. THERE IS THEREFORE A POSSIBILITY THAT WE COULD SEE A SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION IN THE PROGRAM WE ARE CURRENTLY PLANNING FOR FY 79.

4. EVEN SHOULD GOE PERFORMANCE IMPROVE GREATLY, WE

DO NOT ENVISAGE A CONTINUING, OPEN-ENDED NARCOTICS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. OUR AID HAS ALREADY CONTRIBUTED TO AND INDUCED THE GOE TO INCREASE SIGNIFICANTLY ITS LAW ENFORCEMENT CAPACITY IN THE NARCOTICS FIELD. THE PROJECTS HAVE BEEN PLANNED TO CONTINUE AT APPROXIMATELY THEIR PRESENT LEVEL THROUGH FY 80. BY THIS TIME THE INSTITUTIONS WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH SHOULD BE WELL ESTABLISHED WITH ADEQUATE BUDGETS, AND THEREFORE OUR ASSISTANCE SHOULD PROBABLY BE REDUCED AND CONFINED TO TRAINING. WITH THE END OF COMMODITY ASSISTANCE, DEA WILL REMAIN THE MAJOR USG AGENCY WORKING IN THIS AREA.

K. RECOMMENDED WASHINGTON ACTIONS.

TO CONTINUE THE FLEXIBILITY IN PROGRAMMING AND FUNDING THAT THE S/NM HAS MAINTAINED TO DATE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 22-Sep-1999 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NARCOTICS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977QUITO08351
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D770466-0127
Format: TEL
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197712111/baaaeuyw.tel
Line Count: 561
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Message ID: dff75dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) STATE 270847, (B) QUITO 8352
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 120178
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FY 1979 INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION
TAGS: SNAR, EC
To: STATE INFO GUAYAQUIL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/dff75dfc-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009